

Claims

1. A composition comprising

- a) 5 to 50% by weight of an aliphatic dialdehyde having 2 to 10 carbon atoms;
- b) 2.5 to 20% by weight of at least one reductive saccharide having a dextrose equivalent of 10 to 100;
- c) 2.5 to 20% by weight of at least one water-soluble, optionally monoetherified polyoxaalkylene glycol having a molecular weight of more than 100 and not more than 2000; and
- d) 90 to 10% by weight of water,

0.05 to 0.19 mol of the components b) and c) being added per mole of the component a).

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the aliphatic dialdehydes correspond to the formula  $\text{OHC-C}_n\text{H}_{2n}\text{-CHO}$ , in which  $n$  is 0 or is a number from 1 to 8, and are preferably pentanedial.

3. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the aliphatic dialdehyde is 10 to 30% by weight.

4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the saccharide is glucose or sucrose.

5. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of saccharides is 2.5 to 15% by weight.

6. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyoxaalkylene glycols are polyoxaethylenediols and polyoxa-1,2-propylenediols and polyoxaethylenediols/polyoxa-1,2-propylenediols.

7. A composition according to claim 1 or 6, wherein the polyoxaalkylene glycol has a molecular weight of 120 to 1000.

8. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the polyoxaalkylene glycol is 2.5 to 15% by weight.

- 9 -

9. A composition according to claim 1, wherein 0.07 to 0.15 mol of the components b) and c) are added per mole of the component a).

10. A process for the pretanning of pickled pelts in aqueous liquor at a liquor pH of 2.3 to 5, wherein a composition according to claim 1 is added to the liquor and allowed to act on the pelt.

11. A process according to claim 10, wherein the composition is used in an amount of 0.1 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the pelt.

12. A process according to claim 10, wherein the temperature of the liquor is room temperature, preferably 20 to 30°C.

13. A process according to claim 10, wherein the composition is first allowed to act at a pH of 2.3 to 3.6 and the pH is then increased to 4.0 to 5.0 and treatment is continued.